

E2SHB 2783 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/07/2008

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students are  
4 accessing higher education differently than they have in previous  
5 years. Rather than attending a single institution and attaining their  
6 degree, many students now attend multiple institutions, sometimes  
7 simultaneously.

8 The legislature also finds that learning occurs throughout a  
9 person's lifetime. Whether citizens need different training to change  
10 careers or need further education for career advancement, people exit  
11 and reenter institutions of higher education multiple times and for  
12 various reasons.

13 The legislature also finds that current policies and practices do  
14 not provide clear, consistent, easily accessible information to ease  
15 transition in and among the state's colleges and universities. Often,  
16 courses taken at some career and technical schools as well as private  
17 for-profit institutions are not accepted in transfer because these  
18 schools are not accredited by a regional accrediting body. Students  
19 often do not understand that these courses are not transferrable.  
20 Students must retake courses once they have transferred into a  
21 regionally accredited institution, costing the student additional time  
22 and money.

23 Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to improve statewide  
24 communication and coordination of transfer and articulation policies  
25 and practices. Students should be provided clear, consistent  
26 information regarding the courses required for their degrees and how  
27 those courses will be treated when a student moves between colleges and  
28 universities. This information should be communicated to students and  
29 their families in one easily accessible place in a format that is  
30 common among all colleges and universities in the state.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) The higher education coordinating board shall convene a work  
4 group of representatives from the state board for community and  
5 technical colleges, the office of the superintendent of public  
6 instruction, the council of presidents, and two-year and four-year  
7 institutions of higher education including students, to develop a list  
8 of rights guaranteed to students who have earned a transfer associate  
9 degree under the direct transfer agreement. The work group may be an  
10 existing work group that addresses policy issues related to transitions  
11 among public and private institutions of higher education and may also  
12 include representatives from the independent colleges of Washington, as  
13 well as the career and tribal colleges.

14        (2) The list in subsection (1) of this section shall be known as  
15 the transfer student bill of rights and shall include statements of  
16 institutional policy regarding transfer and articulation to assist  
17 students who have earned a transfer associate degree in their academic  
18 planning. The list shall include but is not limited to:

19        (a) Admission to each public and private two-year and four-year  
20 institution of higher education that participates in the direct  
21 transfer agreement;

22        (b) The number of credits that will transfer;

23        (c) Academic requirements fulfilled by the degree at the receiving  
24 institution;

25        (d) Acceptance of credit earned in dual enrollment and accelerated  
26 programs such as advanced placement, running start, and international  
27 baccalaureate;

28        (e) Acceptance of credits earned at nonregionally accredited  
29 institutions; and

30        (f) Advance knowledge of selection criteria for limited access  
31 programs.

32        (3) The work group shall determine which elements in this section  
33 are guaranteed to students entering a four-year institution of higher  
34 education and which elements differ based on admission requirements at  
35 a specific institution or program. The work group must determine the  
36 clearest manner in which to communicate this information to students  
37 and their families as part of the transfer student bill of rights.

1 (4) The transfer student bill of rights shall be displayed  
2 prominently in a user-friendly area of each institution's web site.  
3 Admissions offices, transfer planning offices, recruiting offices and  
4 other relevant offices at public and private institutions of higher  
5 education shall also make the transfer student bill of rights available  
6 to prospective and enrolled students. Public institutions of higher  
7 education shall make the bill of rights available by September 2009.  
8 The transfer student bill of rights may also be used by private  
9 institutions of higher education participating in direct transfer  
10 agreements.

11 (5) For purposes of this section, "nonregionally accredited  
12 institutions" means only those institutions that are fully accredited  
13 by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States  
14 department of education.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The higher education coordinating board must convene a work  
18 group including representatives from the state board for community and  
19 technical colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating  
20 board, the council of presidents, two-year institutions of higher  
21 education, and four-year institutions of higher education to develop a  
22 plan to monitor the progress and success of transfer students. The  
23 workgroup may be an existing work group that addresses policy issues  
24 related to transitions across institutions of higher education.

25 (2) The plan shall contain data that measures student progress  
26 through the higher education system that can be monitored over time.  
27 This information shall include, but not be limited to:

28 (a) The number of students who indicate their intent to transfer at  
29 the time of enrollment and the percentage of those students who  
30 actually transfer or earn an associate degree within three years;

31 (b) Educational outcomes for students who declare their intent to  
32 transfer, earn at least fifteen academic credits, and transfer within  
33 three years;

34 (c) The percentage of students who earn their four-year degree  
35 within three years of earning their associate degree;

36 (d) The average time and credits to completion of an academic

1 transfer degree including the direct transfer agreement, the associate  
2 of science-transfer, and all major related programs; and

3 (e) The average grade point average for students who attain their  
4 transfer associate degrees.

5 (3) The plan shall also include analysis regarding the barriers  
6 that transfer students face in pursuit of their four-year degree and  
7 recommendations to address those barriers.

8 (4) The higher education coordinating board, in collaboration with  
9 the work group and the state board for community and technical  
10 colleges, shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
11 by January 2009, and thereafter on a time schedule consistent with  
12 reporting related to monitoring progress toward the higher education  
13 coordinating board master plan goals.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) Consistent with the statewide strategic master plan for higher  
17 education, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work  
18 group identified in section 2(1) of this act that shall recommend the  
19 best means to identify, at the time of registration, the  
20 transferability and applicability of community and technical college  
21 courses to students' baccalaureate degree goals.

22 (2) Whether and to what extent each course published in an  
23 institutional catalog is transferrable must be identified in a manner  
24 mutually agreed upon by the two-year institutions of higher education  
25 and four-year institutions of higher education.

26 (3) Institutions of higher education must publish this information  
27 either on the internet, in physical course catalogs, or by another  
28 means identified by the work group that addresses the needs of students  
29 without access to the internet.

30 (4) The system of identification in this section shall be  
31 implemented by September 2009.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Consistent with the schedule and work  
33 plans for implementation of the strategic master plan for higher  
34 education, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work  
35 group or assign an existing work group that includes broad  
36 representation from the workforce training and education coordinating

1 board, the state board for community and technical colleges,  
2 institutions of higher education, the independent colleges of  
3 Washington, the career and tribal colleges, the center for information  
4 services, student representatives from two-year and four-year  
5 institutions of higher education, and the office of the superintendent  
6 of public instruction to create a detailed plan for developing and  
7 implementing a statewide web-based academic planning tool. The  
8 web-based academic planning tool would be used by current, prospective,  
9 and returning students to plan their path from high school through the  
10 attainment of their higher education goals.

11 (2) The plan shall contain information including, but not limited  
12 to:

13 (a) Functions that will be included in the web site;

14 (b) Options for development including, but not limited to:  
15 Purchasing the entire system from a vendor; purchasing parts of the  
16 system from a private vendor; building parts of the system with  
17 Washington informational technology resources; and building the entire  
18 system with Washington information technology resources; and

19 (c) Costs associated with each of the options in this subsection.

20 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall report to the  
21 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 15, 2008. The  
22 report shall include recommendations on the most robust yet cost-  
23 effective options for the web-based academic planning tool.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
25 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
26 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
27 void."

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28 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "education;" strike the  
29 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter

1 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW; and creating  
2 new sections."

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